

## **Abu Shusha's Village Massacre**

The village is located southeast of the city of Ramla, on the southern slope of Tel Gezer, where it meets the coastal plain below the hills of Jerusalem. In 1945, it was inhabited by 870 people. Its houses were built of stone and mud, and it had a mosque and an elementary school. As for the crops, there were 2475 dunams allocated for grains and 54 dunams irrigated or used for orchards.

In the early months of the war, Abu Shusha was attacked by the Haganah (refer to the important terms section and/or google it) on May 14, 1948, as part of Operation Barak. Zionist soldiers, from the Givati Brigade, surrounded the village from all sides and rained it with gunfire and mortar shells, then entered the village and fired in all directions. The village was shelled with mortars and many houses and water wells were booby-trapped. After clashes with Palestinian defenders from the village and neighboring villages, most of its houses were destroyed, and its inhabitants were displaced. This resulted in the martyrdom of 60 people from the village.